

next moment he had pitched forward over the grave, with his face among the roses. A while after it began to rain, and, noticing that he did not move, the workmen went and touched him on the shoulder to arouse him, but he did not respond. They lifted him up and found that he was dead. Dead of a broken heart. And it would break all our hearts if it were not for the glorious Easter hope that we have in Jesus Christ." Let us not look down into the grave of buried hopes, of losses which once anguished us, of plans which we held fondly cherished, but let us look straight ahead unto Him who is the light of our life, the source of our strength, our refuge in distress, and our eternal rest.

### OBEDIENCE.

GEORGE F. RONK.

We cannot at the outstart of our Christian walk make too careful a study of all God's word in order that we may know his will concerning us. It is useless to promise as the Israelites did at Mount Sinai, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do," unless we take pains to find out all that the Lord has spoken. Here then is our first duty, not only to read the Bible, but to read all of the Bible.

"All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do."

A boy who goes fishing on forbidden ground, and refuses to look at the signs that forbid "trespassing on these grounds," is not excused because he has not read the signs. He should have read them. He knew that they were there and in plain sight, and if he neglects to read them he must pay the penalty. Many a Christian has suffered severe consequences, which he might have avoided had he read his Bible more carefully.

We should obey God through love. Obedience based on any other foundation is mockery. It is not a question of what we can escape by such obedience, nor of what we can gain. God loves us and we love him "because he first loved us." As we would willingly bear any personal suffering before we would grieve or wound a friend for whom we care, so the realization of God's love for us holds our hearts loyal to him by bonds that cannot be broken.

While reward is not the main motive for obedience, still obedience has its reward. "Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him. For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat, and

barley, and wines, and fig trees, and pomegranites; a land of olive oil and honey; a land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass. When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he has given thee." Deut. 8: 6 to 10.

It is said of Moses that "he chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward."

And even our Savior endured the cross, sustained by the prospect of "the joy that was set before him." The reward is not the motive for obedience, but it is an aid and help thereto.

When prosperity comes through obedience, then beware lest thou forget the God who gave it. Few people can bear prosperity. It is far harder to endure than adversity, for then one is driven to the Lord for help, and in the other case he is liable to become too self-confident. When things go smoothly with us we are liable to forget the God who has given us health, home and happiness, and think that our own wisdom has gotten us these things. In other words, we lean on ourselves instead of on the Everlasting Arm, and we soon fall. May God keep us humble and obedient that we may eat the good of the land.

Turlock, Calif.

### THE POSSIBLE GOOD OF UNION MEETINGS.

Read at Union Meeting held at Twelve Mile, Ind., by Ida Simmonds.

At the close of this day's service, no doubt many of us will silently ask, "what good have we derived from our union meeting?" But be assured that the blessings will come for God has said where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I will be also.

When God created man his great plan was to have them dwell in peace and unity. In the 133rd Psalm we find these words: Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

Life is but an arc in the circle of the world history, and it in turn is but an arc of the infinite universe: yet as the smallest cog must fill its place, so the humblest life must be in harmony with God's will or there will be discord.

We need fellowship. You may think the fellowship among church members is complete. It is not so. The members of

the church are not united, not of one accord and of one mind.

We cannot have full fellowship until we walk in the light as Christ is in the light.

Did not the Christian church in the beginning accomplish its great mission by being in unison?

Now, this meeting should be a means of bringing us in harmony one with another. Unity in aim and soul and effort and surely that will be a great power for good. And then we can say as Paul said, We are laborers together with God.

Then the church and the people need knowledge—knowledge of God's Holy Word—wisdom governs the world.

Solomon said, Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

It is our duty to get all the knowledge and all the sympathy and all the counsel we can secure to enable us to do that which is best for suffering humanity. If we refuse wise counsel when it is within our reach; if we fail to avail ourselves of the services of friends who stand ready to help us; if we act on our own unaided judgment, when we might have had clearer light by going for it to others—we must suffer from the lack of what we might have possessed.

In this meeting we have the privilege of obtaining that knowledge and by the young and old exchanging views and giving counsel we are better enabled to carry out God's commands in a more systematic way.

By giving us understanding will not our faith be increased? What more could we ask, for through faith we are saved.

The weak would be made strong, the simple made wise, and the lost redeemed.

If this meeting is to make us Christ-like it must necessarily make us more faithful, more charitable. Charity does not mean simply almsgiving. It means faith, purity, truth, mercy, patience, meekness, sympathy, long-suffering and last but not least love. Love supplies comfort in penitence, courage in weakness, patience in trial, satisfaction in life and salvation in death.

Paul says, Though I speak with the tongues of men, or angels, or have the gift of prophecy, and understood all mysteries and have not love, I am nothing. Again, he says, He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

Christ wants us to be faithful, loving creatures, awake and alive not only to our own interests but the interests of our friends, neighbors and associates. Love cannot be selfish for whatever is of self is not love.

Can't we as a body, this day resolve to be more helpful to our fellowman, and by